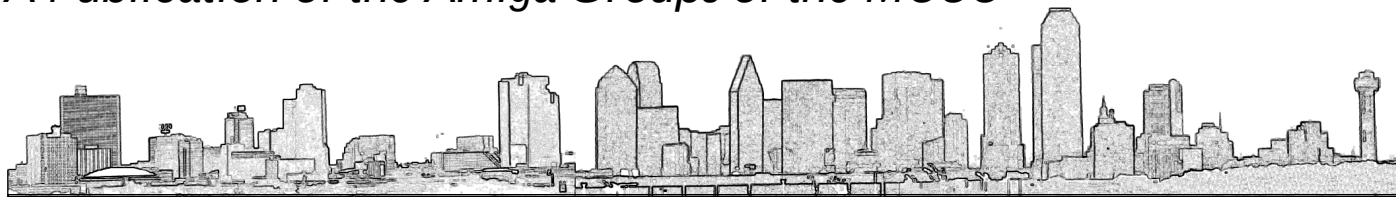


The AGM Connection

A Publication of the Amiga Groups of the MCCC



Fort Worth

September 1997

Dallas

Ric's Ruminations

What is an Amiga user, today and tomorrow?

What's an Amiga enthusiast? More than 5 years ago, we would have received a wide variety of answers from gamers to video professionals, artists, business people, and the majority of users just wanting to do the odd thing. It would not be uncommon to find an Amiga user that kept track of their genealogy data, played around with their paint programs, and occasionally used a word processor to write letters to friends and relatives. They might even try to dabble in an area with a steep learning curve like writing an AReXX script.

Well, times have changed. Things are tighter now. Interests are more finely tuned in the Amiga. Is this a good thing? I'm reminded of a series of novels written by Isaac Asimov, the Foundation Trilogy, in which a character develops a new science that allows mankind to predict mankind's future. Note that this is different than being able to predict the future of one person. This theory mathematically reduced the entire human population down to a series of generalized algorithms. When the character applied his theory to his present time he discovered that the current empire would eventually crumble and the entire human population that was presently spread across millions of planets would fall into anarchy. In order to circumvent this, he planned for a Foundation to be established as far from the center of the Empire as possible. Time passed. Since the Foundation's planet was very low on natural resources, and because trade with the empire was failing, the Foundation's scientists and engineers resorted to developing their newer technologies as small as possible. This resulted in very high technology that was so miniaturized that people just a few planets away thought it was magic.

I'm sure you're wondering how I'm going to connect this to the present Amiga situation. Well, just as the empire's failing trimmed the technological fat off science and technology, I feel that the passing of the Amiga's golden era have forced and

will force many people, developers and users alike, to rethink the way they use their Amiga.

One benefit, I hope, is that the Amiga's operating system(s) will be more robust and more full-featured while still retaining their relative lightness of being. In addition, I'm hoping that the Amiga's operating system(s) will not only be developed for other processor platforms, but that other operating systems will be ported to the Amiga hardware platform.

Another benefit is that Amiga users will have been more receptive of other operating systems and platforms. After all, one reason most of us enjoy using computers is to learn new things. It certainly stretches our imaginations and capabilities when we learn an entirely new computer platform. How does this provide an improvement for the Amiga computer user? First, they'll be better equipped to learn new programs. Second, they'll learn to segregate their computer uses between one platform and another, thus tailoring their computing sessions to the software that is best able to handle the task at hand.

The past three years have forced developers to be more particular when designing their programs. It's also forced users to be more receptive of the sparse offerings from Amiga developers. This miniaturization, or tightening, of resources has cleansed a lot of the fat from the Amiga community. Unfortunately, the lack of software development has also caused us to lose some of our muscle. We have a long way to go before we are in good health again.

So, what is an Amiga enthusiast today? Hopefully, it is a user that can choose to perform their various computing tasks according to the abilities of their multiple computers. It's my sincere hope that this will bring forth a new class of users that have a profound respect for their preferred computer. If we can go through 3 years of difficult times and continue to appreciate using our Amiga computers, imagine the nirvana we will experience when we are headed on a good course with an able helmsman.

Remember: Only Amiga makes it possible. ...Ric Fischer, Arizona Amiga User Group



Best of the BBS

- v *AtomiClock* (ATOMICCLOCK.LZX) — A script and ARExx combination to update your system time from the Atomic Clock via the Internet. Requires AmiTCP or Miami.
- v *Datatypes*:
 - FAXX43.5.LZX — For GPFax documents.
 - AKJFIF43.95.LZX — For JPEG pictures.
 - AKPNG43.95.LZX — For PNG pictures.
 - ADLJPG43.95.LZX — For lossless JPEG pictures.
- v *GoldEd* (GED472.LZX) — Probably the best text editor available for the Amiga. Without a key-file the maximum filesize is limited.
- v *MUI Classes*:
 - MCC_TIME12.3.LZX — A time class.
 - MCC_TIMETEXT12.0.LZX — A time text class.
 - MCC_BUSY2_4.LZX — A busy class.
- v *Photo Album* (PHOTOALBIM33.LZX) — View pictures as thumbnails. Maintain picture databases. Click on a thumbnail to view a full size picture. Without a keyfile, it will display only in greyscale.
- v *Picasso96* (PICASSO961.24.LZX) — Excellent RTG (ReTargetable Graphics) software. Supports most graphics cards. Faster in most respects than CyberGraphX.
- v *Pictures* — Lots of great pictures this month: Wolves, elephants, frogs and more. I count 34 in all.
- v *StarAm_Plan* (STARAM_PLAN21B.LZX or STARAMPLAN88121B.LZX) — An excellent shareware spreadsheet. Two versions — one for Amigas with FPU's.

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Please Forward
Address Correction Requested

September Calendar

September 2 — MCCC Board of Director's Meeting
7:30 pm — Okley Moss' Place

September 9 — Amiga By-The-Loop Chapter
7:30 pm — Bell Helicopter Training Facility

September 16 — Amiga North Dallas Chapter
7:30 pm — Addison Road north of Westgrove

Newsletter Deadline — September 27, 7:00 am

Saturday, October 25 — Brookside Community Center
Flea Market — Commodore Country
Details next month — BE THERE !

Membership Watch

Expired August, 1997

Adam Dye
Richard Levine
Jim Waters

Herschel Gibbs
John Srader



Expiring September, 1997

John Cummings

Tom Hayden